

6th Meeting of the Commission Lima, Peru, 30 January to 3 February 2018

COMM 6 – Report – ANNEX 8b: Airtime Fees

(WP26)

The VMS Working Group (WG) discussed the payment of satellite airtime fees applicable to VMS data transmitted directly by Australian and New Zealand vessels to the Secretariat when they are reporting simultaneously under paragraph 9 b) of CMM 06-2017.

The VMW WG noted that based on quotes provided by CLS the annual costs of position reporting and DNID activation/deactivation would be approximately \$2100. The VMS WG noted that Australia and New Zealand's preference was for the Commission to absorb this cost on the basis that CMM 06-2017 CMM provides Members with the option to either report positions indirectly via their FMC or simultaneously. Australia and New Zealand also noted that this is practised in WCPFC and CCAMLR, and that it is more cost effective than undergoing a regular reconciliation process.

However, the VMS Working Group recommended that for 2018 Australia and New Zealand shall absorb their respective airtime hosting fees. The VMS WG further recommended this matter to be reviewed at the annual commission meeting in 2019 to ensure that this was capable of being a cost-effective administrative process for the Secretariat.

The VMS WG recommended additional training from CLS for the Secretariat to improve the Secretariat's capacity to process direct reporting. Based on quotes provided by CLS it is estimated that this training would cost approximately \$3 500 NZD. It would also provide relevant training of benefit to the Secretariat.

The VMS WG recommended that the Secretariat would establish DNID connections for the Australia and New Zealand for vessels which are polling directly to the Secretariat and that these costs (approximately \$200) shall be absorbed by Australia and New Zealand.